



Treasury Notes

WISCONSIN OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER
"KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR MONEY"

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\$75,000+ Claimed at the Wisconsin State Fair

The Office of the State Treasurer is pleased to have helped more than 500 people claim more than \$75,000 at this year's Wisconsin State Fair. The Unclaimed Property Unit also helped people find missing money at the Washington, Winnebago, Fond Du Lac and Dodge County Fairs.

"This is still a tough economic climate," State Treasurer Kurt Schuller said. "It is truly rewarding to tell people they have money they didn't know they had."

There is more than \$400 million dollars in unclaimed assets held by the State Treasury. This money comes from forgotten paychecks, insurance premium overpayments, utility deposits, forgotten bank accounts, forgotten stocks, abandoned safe deposit boxes and many other forms of assets that have been lost, forgotten about or that people did not even know they had! There are more than 2 million "properties" held by the Office of State Treasurer.

Update \$1.5 Million Prudential

Additional names of beneficiaries were turned over to the Office of the State Treasurer. Those who believe they are the beneficiaries of a Prudential Insurance Company policy will be able to search the unclaimed property database to see if they are owed any money. In July, Prudential Insurance turned over more than \$1.5 million in one of several payments expected through the end of 2012.

Prudential revamped its unclaimed property reporting practices to better cross-reference its policy database with public death records.

"Prudential is doing the right thing by ensuring those who are owed death benefits receive that cash," State Treasurer Kurt Schuller said.

The Wisconsin State Treasury has received 1473 names from Prudential and we have placed a spreadsheet with those names on our homepage, www.wismissingmoney.com. That spreadsheet will be updated at the same time our database is updated as Prudential continues to send more information to our office. Check www.wismissingmoney.com frequently.



State Treasurer Kurt Schuller at the Wisconsin State Fair!



Dodge County Fair Races in Beaver Dam, WI

July Ebay Auction \$5512.00!



August auction closes the
28th!

www.wismissingmoney.com

The Economy and You: The Future of the U.S. Economy Part II

In [my previous article](#), I wrote about the turmoil of our national economic downturn which has led policy makers to believe that a “new normal” exists due to the general weakness of our economy. I outlined a couple of reasons why I believe the U.S. has advantages that will help us to reassume the position as the world’s dominant global economic leader.

We must understand that the notion of inevitable slow growth is not the future fate of our nation. The data shows that the U.S. is seeing a rebound in [manufacturing](#), an unrivaled reign in technological innovation, along with a continuous influx of foreign labor and capital. Add these factors to a strong increase in agricultural and energy production and the U.S. is poised to return stronger than ever.

Over the past 12 years, America has lost nearly a third of its manufacturing workforce, approximately 5.5 million jobs. What one must understand is that the [manufacturing sector](#) is fundamentally changing, not dying. Manufacturing is transforming from a low skilled, low tech, labor intensive industries to companies that are technology intensive, high productivity businesses that requires a highly skilled and educated labor force. It is this transformation that is crucial to our nation’s resurgence and continuous innovation.

Manufacturing is important because manufacturing production drives growth in other sectors of the economy. About one in six of all private sector jobs depend on the manufacturing sector. This sector also provides 66% of the funding for private research and development, as well as employing 64% of its scientists and engineers. One more thing to remember, the U.S. remains the largest manufacturer in the world, providing 20% of the world’s value added in manufacturing which is more than China, India, Brazil and Russia combined.

America continues its technical dominance even with criticism of America’s erosion of scientific talent. The computer software industry is a strong example. Of the world’s top software companies, nine out of ten are based in the United States; the German company SAP is

the lone exception. Regarding the internet, there are no foreign rivals to companies like Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google or Microsoft.

What could be argued as one of America’s strongest advantages regarding long term economic strength is immigration. Demographic data shows that the stagnation in population growth in developed economies will lead to slower growth, even decline. Between 2000 and 2050, the U.S. workforce is projected to increase by 37% while that of China will drop by 10%, the [European Union](#) will decrease by 21%, and Japan’s will fall by almost 40%. The lack of growth in population will affect the consumption of goods, growth of their economies, and the ability to support their retiring workers.

From an entrepreneurial perspective, American colleges and universities continue to attract the most foreign students. While many of these students return to their home countries, many do not. Many will remain in the U.S. to apply their skills in our economy as studies have shown that immigrants have become an increasing percentage of our nation’s entrepreneurs.

Still, the United States is not only benefitting from the importing of foreign skilled labor. The U.S. is also the favored destination of overseas investment and has been for many years. The data shows this trend does not seem to be changing. Foreign direct investment has been remaining constant or decreasing in countries like Germany, Japan, France and Korea. Investors place their money where they believe a profit can be made, and that continues to be the United States.

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Office of the State Treasurer

The Big Board

<u>Unclaimed Property (numbers approx.)</u>	
<u>July 2012</u>	
\$401,378,159	Program Value
2,011,342	Number of Accounts
2,384	Claims Paid July 2012
\$2,061,781	Claims July 2012
\$24,044,355	Amount in Claims Paid (2012)
22,231	Number of Claims Paid (2012)
\$5,338,279	Amount Remitted from Holders (Feb. 2012-July 2012)
1,314	Holder Reports (Feb. 2012.-July 2012)

<u>Local Gov. Investment Pool - July 2012</u>	
\$2,421,657,140	June Balance
\$43,768,984	Total Deposits
\$61,804,650	Total Withdrawals
\$333,807	Interest Earnings
<u>College Savings Plan—July 2012</u>	
847	New Accounts
266,279	Total Accounts
\$2,867,046,275	Program Value
<u>Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (numbers approx) - July 2012</u>	
\$876,789,725	Assets or Principal
76,348	Acres under Stewardship
\$133.4 million	Aid to Public School Libraries (2008-2012)

Back to School, Save for College!

Families are making back to school plans, and September also kicks off a national awareness campaign for planning higher education expenses. College Savings Month is an annual promotion of the College Savings Plan Network (CSPN), which includes *Edvest* and *Tomorrow's Scholar*, Wisconsin's 529 plans.

While anytime is a good time to save, the return to school helps focus the message, according to Jim DiUlio, director of the state's 529 program. "We see a pickup in new accounts this time of year as parents and grandparents send kids back to classes, or it could also be the tax break." Wisconsin parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles may receive up to a \$3,000 state-taxable income reduction per

beneficiary each year for contributions made by year-end. Accounts grow both state and federal tax-free when used for higher ed expenses.

The College Board says the national average tuition and fees at a 4-year public school (in-state) for 2010-11 were \$7,605, and at a private (not-for-profit) college were \$27,293.

A national study says 60% of parents have saved for college, and are on track to save \$48,367 on average by the time their child turns 18.

It's important to get started early, DiUlio adds. "By third grade, half of your investment window to college is gone." Savings can start as little as

\$15 per month, when set up with automatic transfers from a bank account.



Accounts can also take lump sums any-time.

During September, a variety of 529 plan facts and features will be posted daily on the CSPN website www.collegesavings.org and on Twitter.

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WI State Treasurer
Kurt Schuller

Wisconsin Unclaimed
Property

EdVest, Wisconsin's
College Savings Plan



WITreasSchuller

WISateTreasury

EdVestWI529



[wistatetreasury.
wordpress.com](http://wistatetreasury.wordpress.com)

You Tube

TheWISateTreasury

The State Treasurer is tasked with managing more than \$400 million in Unclaimed Property and is also a Commissioner on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. He is also an avid promoter of Wisconsin's College Savings Plans and the Local Government Investment Pool.

Unclaimed Property: The office maintains custody and records for all property received under the uniform unclaimed property act and general escheat laws. Those with unclaimed property submit proper paperwork and examiners work to get their money back to them as quickly as possible.

Wisconsin's "529" College Savings Plan: Known as EdVest. The funds are managed by Wells Fargo Funds Management, LLC. You can open an account on behalf of a designated beneficiary and the earnings will grow state and federal tax free until the time the beneficiary is ready to continue their post-secondary education including two and four-year colleges, technical, vocational, and graduate schools. Wisconsin residents can claim up to a \$3,000 credit on state taxes per account.

The Local Government Investment Pool: This program allows local government entities to pool funds with state funds which are then invested by the State of Wisconsin Investment Board. Funds deposited in the pool are available for withdrawal on one day's notice and without penalty on interest earnings. Interest is credited to the local government accounts monthly. Average daily balance in the pool now exceeds \$3.1 billion.

For questions about "Treasury Notes", please email Cynthia Kaump, Communications Director at Cynthia.Kaump@Wisconsin.gov or call Cynthia at 608-266-5757.

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These positive indicators do not mean that our nation does not face obstacles. Many states face growing unfunded financial obligations (especially employee pensions) as well as addressing human and physical infrastructure issues. The federal government continues to increase the national debt with no comprehensive solution to address it. This is why **economic growth** is so important. Economic growth will provide governments with the revenues they need (even with lower taxes) to address the challenges that face our society. America has the tools and the resources to return to its place as the leading economic leader in the world. We must continue to use the inherent advantages we possess to strengthen our economy.

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Accounts can also take lump sums anytime.

During September, a variety of 529 plan facts and features will be posted daily on the CSPN website www.collegesavings.org and on Twitter. In addition, information articles will appear in national magazines Smart Money, Huffington Post, Forbes, and Kiplinger's, as well as on morning news shows. More detailed information for parents and links are available at the CSPN site, as well as at www.edvest.com.

Edvest and Tomorrow's Scholar are 529 college savings plans administered by the State of Wisconsin. Eligible institutions include most universities, technical colleges, graduate, and professional school in the U.S. and many overseas.

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wordpress.com](http://wistatetreasury.wordpress.com)

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